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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT NO.

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Indication of Mobilization  
in the Plovdiv AreaDATE OF  
INFO. [REDACTED]PLACE  
ACQUIRE [REDACTED]

BY CABLE

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The following indications of abnormal mobilization, short of total mobilization, were noted in the Plovdiv, Karlovo, and Pazardzhik areas from 17 to 20 October:<sup>1</sup>
  - a. Unusually large numbers of Bulgarian military men, including a disproportionately large number of officers were seen in Plovdiv.<sup>2</sup>
  - b. Twenty Soviet Air Force officers were seen during a 15-minute walk in Plovdiv.
  - c. During the night, flights of jets were heard over Plovdiv, and four MIG-15 planes were seen in flight south of Plovdiv.
  - d. On 18 October 1952, a military train of 15 cars loaded military materiel, including artillery shells, at Gara Krichim and subsequently proceeded in the direction of Sofia; each car had two guards; on the train, [REDACTED] two tractors, similar to ones he had seen towing airplanes in 1950;
  - e. Throughout the night of 17-18 October 1952, heavy vehicle traffic was observed on the Plovdiv-Devin (N4145 E2424) highway near Krichim (N4203 E2426). Because the movements took place at night and because two scout cars were seen at the tail of the convoy [REDACTED] assumed that the vehicles were military. Other traffic observed was not indicative of military preparations. Most trucks, including military, carried food, lumber, or hay. Five military trucks, seen moving in the direction of Devin on 18 October 1952, were empty.

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| STATE | X | NAVY | X | NSRB |  | DISTRIBUTION |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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25X1 f. [ ] a new road under construction between Ravnogor-Dospat as well as

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2.

a. Heavy mobilization is taking place in Pazardzhik and surrounding villages. "All men capable of bearing arms are now in barracks."

b. A student from Karlovo told one of the informants that all schools in Karlovo were closed as of 10 October so as to serve as barracks.

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c. Pressure was exerted on engineer workshops in the district to complete the repair of old construction machinery and to ready new machinery for dispatch to the Zlatograd and Pervishka Mogila areas. [ ] the machines were to be used for the expansion of fortifications. For the past year there has been continuous pressure to keep road-building equipment working.<sup>3-4</sup>

d. Snow plows have been distributed in the southern mountains. Previously the plows were not distributed until January, and were dispatched from Plovdiv.<sup>5</sup>

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a. Reservists wear battle dress, as opposed to regulars who wear normal uniforms.

b. Grenches have recently been completed two kilometers directly north of Dospat.

c. The 10 p.m. curfew in the Krichim area is not strictly enforced because of the presence of migrant workers.

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[ ] a larger proportion of gas-generator trucks than he had seen last July.

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[ ] Comment: [ ] the unusual activity mentioned above was an indication of war preparations. [ ] tension of war preparation was higher than at any time during 1944-1945. However [ ] no particular security measures either on the roads or in the cities or at railway stations. [ ] no indications of war hysteria. No military were observed in the border areas.

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1.

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2. [ ] Comment: The military personnel were observed on a Saturday afternoon when Plovdiv is normally crowded with shoppers, including townspeople, peasants, and military in pass. The call-up of reserves began in September 1952 and may have been intensified because of the end of the plowing season.

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3. [ ] Comment: Road and fortification construction in the Rhodope mountain area is part of a continuous program [ ]

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4. [ ] Comment: District engineer repair shops service all road-building machinery in southern Bulgaria. The destination of road-building equipment and the fact that work is being done on border defenses is not secret.

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5. [ ] Comment: The maintenance program has been hindered because the Government does not provide enough workers.

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